are no dissensions. As I said, everybody is aware, this is the demand of the country, and the Cabinet. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No please. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, No. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री कलराज मिश्र : सर, 38 सब-कमेटीज़ के बारे में कहा गया। श्री रणधीर सिंह जी ने कहा था ...(**व्यवधान**)...

DR. M.S. GILL: Sir, if you allow, I will answer. Sir, Kalrajji referred to 38 or a large number of sub-committees which had not met and now they are beginning to meet. Yes, that question should be and will be addressed. The question was: Do we need such a large number of committees or there could be a more compact number with more focus and regular meetings? All that has been gone into.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay, now, I have to take the sense of the House because Mr. Anand Sharma has requested that he would like to withdraw a Bill and introduce a new Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*... It will take only a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, withdrawal of which Bill? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): It is in the List of Business, but, it was to be taken up after lunch. He has requested to take it up now. If the House agrees, I will permit that. ...*(Interruptions)*... It will take only a minute.

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GOVERNMENT BILLS

The Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2001

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2001.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

The Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2009

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND

SHARMA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2009.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, the House is adjourned till 2.27 p.m. for one hour.

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-seven minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-one minutes past two of the clock, MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

The Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 2008

SHRI P.R. RAJAN (Kerala): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, while introducing the Bill, the Minister has explained, in detail, the circumstances in which the Bill was presented in the House. He himself has agreed with rampant corruption and violation of rules in the years since 1996 when the last Bill was passed in the Council. Now, the position continues as such. That was his explanation. So, it has become necessary to introduce a new Amendment Bill, 2008, plugging out the loopholes in the 1996 Election Rules. Therefore, the 22 proposals, received from the Election Commission for banning such loopholes, were issued. What were the proposals? One was about the district-wise Appellate Authority. In the first proposal made by the Election Commission, there were complaints, in the preparation of electoral rolls, of removing the names of voters from the electoral rolls, without taking any evidence from the persons concerned. This may be either at the intervention of the ruling party or of the other authorities concerned.

The other complaint was the intervention of the Commission in regard to the existing rules and regulations. In a democracy, in any parliamentary democracy, in any form of Government and democracy, the process of election has to be free, fair and equitable. But during the past many years, the entire process was done contrary to the above principles. In these circumstances, it was felt necessary that some need-based measures be taken to remove the loopholes noticed in the Representation of the People Acts of 1950 and 1951 (43 of 1951). In July, 2004, the Election Commission of India had forwarded a set of 23 proposals on electoral reforms to the Government for consideration. While considering the proposals of the Election Commission it was felt appropriate to examine certain proposals in respect of electoral reforms and examine the aforesaid Acts of 1950 and 1951. The formation of an appellate authority within the districts is one among them.

While considering the above issue, it has to be remembered that no officer who is supposed to be engaged in the election process should be transferred just before and after or in-between after the declaration of the election. Another point is the simplification of the entire election process and disqualification of the person found guilty of corrupt practices. Telecast of exit polls has to be stopped because of the long process of election. It may affect the last election process.

Another proposal is regarding corrupt practices. The existing practice of election campaign sometimes runs against the spirit of the people's right to choose a candidate in a democratic manner. The recent election in Jharkhand is a clear example. Shri Madhu Koda has spent crores of rupees for the election campaign.